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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Twenty-second meeting

Geneva, 19–21 June 2018

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the work programmes for 2015–2017
and 2018–2021, including financial matters**

Report on the implementation of the work programmes for 2015–2017 and 2018–2021

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report was prepared pursuant to the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017) (see ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI/5, annex I, item X). It provides an overview of the implementation of the work programme for the Convention for 2015–2017 for the period 1 June to 31 December 2017 and looks at the status of activities under the work programme for 2018–2021 up to 16 March 2018.

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Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the implementation of the work programme for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1, decision V/6, annex I) for the period 1 June to 31 December 2017 and the work programme for 2018–2021 (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI/5, annex I) up to 16 March 2018. The information herein complements information provided in the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/2017/3) submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017). Owing to the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, implementation of different work programme areas contributed to furthering the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals across the whole 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An overview of contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programmes is provided in document ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2018/5. Only some activities related to access to information, capacity-building and awareness-raising regarding the Convention's Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers are included; a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/8) was submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for consideration at its third session (Budva, Montenegro, 15 September 2017) and the next report will be prepared for the upcoming meeting of the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 9 November 2018).

2. In implementing the work programme, the secretariat made strenuous efforts to avoid duplication of work and the inefficient use of resources by pursuing synergies with activities under other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies and other partners. This required spending more time on the preparatory phase of activities to ensure proper consultations with the chairs of the respective subsidiary bodies and partner organizations. Furthermore, the secretariat extended, and will continue to extend, the use of electronic tools (e.g., email consultations; conferencing by means of web-based, video or telephone technology; online databases; and the clearinghouse mechanism), with a view to rendering its activities more resource and time efficient.

I. Substantive issues

A. Access to information, including electronic information tools, the clearinghouse mechanism and PRTR.net

3. In the reporting period (i.e., 1 June 2017–16 March 2018), activities primarily focused on promoting the exchange of experience to improve public access to environmental information, as required by articles 4 and 5 of the Aarhus Convention, including through electronic information tools.

4. The secretariat has continued managing the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy¹ and the PRTR.net² global portal. The instruments have been updated, both in terms of functionality and content. The two portals are used to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to national implementation of

¹ See <http://aarhusclearinghouse.unecce.org/>

² See <http://www.prtr.net/>

the Convention and relevant global and regional developments regarding implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. They also provide information regarding pollutant release and transfer registers. Parties are encouraged to continue uploading relevant news articles and resources and to provide the web link to their national node.

5. The secretariat also continued to maintain and populate a jurisprudence database accessible through the Convention's web page and the updated interface of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, which enhanced its search capabilities. The database promotes the exchange of jurisprudence concerning the Convention and facilitates the work on access to justice. It includes decisions issued by courts of law or other bodies that make reference to the Convention or its principles, and includes summaries in English and decisions in the original language and in English, when available. The database includes case summaries in Russian as well. To date, there are more than 100 cases in the database. Maintaining the jurisprudence database is an ongoing activity.

6. The secretariat has gathered a collection of case studies on electronic information tools, which it posts on a dedicated web page and updates regularly.³

7. The secretariat has also started exploring different options to update the online reporting tool and database of national implementation reports for the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol, along with the Aarhus Good Practice online database,⁴ in order to align these websites with the latest security standards.

8. In the reporting period, the secretariat contributed to the work of other international forums dealing with access to environmental information and electronic information tools. For instance, it provided a number of inputs related to the development of the shared environmental information system across the region.

9. Furthermore, the secretariat provided a number of inputs for documents produced by the Conference of European Statisticians, raising awareness about the relevance of the Convention and the Protocol with regard to the production of official statistics in environmental matters. It also briefed the ECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at its nineteenth session (Geneva, 27–28 June 2017) on relevant activities under the Convention and the Protocol.

10. The secretariat also promoted the Aarhus Convention at a meeting on ECE cooperation with the European regional committee of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe), held on 14 November 2017 in Geneva.

B. Public participation in decision-making

11. The secretariat is providing assistance to the Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making in preparing the eighth meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 8–9 October 2018), following up on the subjects identified in decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties on promoting effective public participation in decision-making (see ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1).

12. A call for case studies on public participation in environmental decision-making is ongoing, to continue populating the Aarhus Good Practice online database.

³ Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/taf/case_studies.html

⁴ See <https://aarhus-good-practices.unece.org/>

C. Access to justice

13. In the reporting period numerous activities focused on promoting effective access to justice, thereby contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and in particular its target 16.3 (promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all).

14. In the margins of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with the support of Sweden, organized a side event, "Strengthening the role of the judiciary in promoting the rule of law in environmental matters, protecting environmental procedural rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals". The secretariat also promoted the third pillar of the Convention (access to justice) at the training for judges and legal professionals organized by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (Budva, Montenegro, 14–15 September 2017).

15. At its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 27–28 February 2018), the Task Force on Access to Justice provided a platform for exchanging information on key recent developments concerning legislation, policy and case law with regard to the implementation of the third pillar of the Convention and possible measures to remove barriers hampering its implementation. The thematic session of the meeting focused on promoting effective access to justice in cases on the right to environmental information. In addition, delegates discussed new developments related to the implementation of the third pillar of the Convention in general terms. The participants also examined tools to promote effective access to justice, including e-justice initiatives and initiatives promoting capacity-building and cooperation. The meeting was preceded by a special session for representatives of the judiciary, judicial training institutions and other review bodies.⁵

16. Pursuant to the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 17–18 June 2013) and in accordance with decision V/3 of Meeting of the Parties, in 2015 a study on the possibilities for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) promoting environmental protection to claim damages on behalf of the environment was finalized and made available online. Later during the intersessional period 2015–2017, the secretariat updated this study in the light of the comments received. The updated study was made available online.⁶

17. Furthermore, the secretariat finalized a study on the scope of review in selected countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. For its part, the secretariat provided advisory support to a similar study being carried out in other countries of South-Eastern Europe by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe with the support of Germany.⁷

⁵ Information on the Task Force meeting is available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47184>.

⁶ Alexander Schmidt and others, *The legal debate on access to justice for environmental NGOs: A discussion of arguments and positions concerning access to justice for environmental NGOs as well as a legal comparative contribution to the further discussion of access to justice for environmental NGOs*, Texte 99/2017 (Berlin, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, 2017). An English-language summary and the full report (in German) are available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/tfaj/analytical_studies.html.

⁷ The studies (forthcoming) will be made available on a dedicated web page of the Convention website http://www.unece.org/env/pp/tfaj/analytical_studies.html.

D. Genetically modified organisms

18. Bilateral collaboration on genetically modified organisms is ongoing between the secretariats of the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Cartagena Protocol) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the invitation of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Aarhus secretariat provided input to the preparation of a joint Aarhus Convention-Cartagena Protocol issue of the *Biosafety Protocol News*.⁸ The newsletter includes articles prepared jointly by national focal points to the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol. In addition, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol from outside the ECE region report how the Aarhus Convention and related guidelines on genetically modified organisms are beneficial for their implementation of article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol.

19. The secretariats of the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol jointly organized a side event at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. Participants shared experiences on tools, procedures and mechanisms for public participation concerning living modified organisms/genetically modified organisms in Austria, Georgia and Namibia. Moreover, the side event included a training session on public participation mechanisms and procedures to help participants identify key challenges regarding the ratification of the amendment to the Convention regarding public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (GMO amendment) and ways to promote more efficiently the implementation of the provisions of the Convention regarding decision-making on genetically modified organisms.

20. During the reporting period, no new Party ratified the GMO amendment. Two more Parties from among the following list must ratify the amendment for it to enter into force: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

21. The Parties whose ratification of the GMO amendment would count towards its entry into force were repeatedly called upon during the previous intersessional period to take serious steps towards ratification and to provide the secretariat with a written explanation on the status of ratification. The Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session requested the Working Group of the Parties to continue monitoring closely progress towards the entry into force of the GMO amendment (see ECE/MP.PP/2017/2).

II. Procedures and mechanisms

A. Compliance mechanism

22. Since its reports to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2017/31 and ECE/MP.PP/2017/32), covering the period 6 April 2014 to 19 June 2017, the Compliance Committee held four regular meetings, namely, its fifty-seventh to sixtieth meetings, and two virtual meetings. Three regular meetings were held in the second half of 2017, one of these in parallel with the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties. One regular meeting and two virtual meetings were held in the first quarter of 2018. At its meetings, the Committee reviewed communications from the public concerning

⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Biosafety Protocol News*, 2017/2018, No. 13, available from https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_newsletter.shtml.

alleged non-compliance by Parties.⁹ Between 19 June 2017 and 16 March 2018, 13 new communications were forwarded to the Committee for consideration as to their preliminary admissibility. The Committee determined nine of those communications to be admissible on a preliminary basis and one further communication was determined to be partially admissible on the same basis. In addition, at its sixth session, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Committee to review the compliance of one Party with the Convention¹⁰ and to review any developments that had taken place regarding the compliance of another Party.¹¹ No submissions were made to the Committee by Parties in the reporting period and the secretariat made no referrals. As at 16 March 2018 the Committee had 45 pending cases, consisting of 42 pending communications, 1 pending submission and 2 pending requests.

23. In addition to its pending cases, the Committee is following up on 10 decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session on the compliance of individual Parties, namely decisions VI/8a-e and VI/8g-k concerning Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In this regard, at its sixtieth meeting the Committee held audio conferences in open session with representatives of the Parties concerned and observers in order to discuss the progress made by the Parties in implementing the decisions concerning their compliance. The audio conferences were also intended to provide Parties and observers with an opportunity to ask any questions they might have regarding the Committee's follow-up procedure and what might be required to fully implement the decision concerning their compliance.

24. The Compliance Committee is continuing its work on revising the guide to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, and is expected to complete the work at or prior to its sixty-first meeting. The revised guide has been prepared in a transparent and participatory manner, with all discussions of the draft revised guide taking place in open session at Committee meetings and all drafts published on the Committee's website in advance of the discussion. In addition to the discussions in open sessions at the Committee meetings, Parties and observers have had the possibility to send written comments on the various drafts.

25. An informal network of chairs of the compliance and implementation bodies under the ECE multilateral environmental agreements was established in spring 2012 at the initiative of the Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. The network aims to exchange information and lessons learned on the work of the bodies and to share views on how to improve implementation and compliance mechanisms. It is proposed to hold the fifth meeting of the informal network in 2018.¹²

B. Capacity-building activities

26. In addition to capacity-building activities mentioned under other areas of work to build synergies and enhance coordination with partners, the secretariat continuously maintained close cooperation with and provided advisory support to United Nations partner

⁹ For details, see the reports of the Compliance Committee available from <http://www.uneece.org/env/pp/ccMeetings.html>

¹⁰ Request ACCC/M/2017/2 (Turkmenistan) (see ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add 1, decision VI/8, para. 19).

¹¹ Request ACCC/M/2017/3 (European Union) (see ECE/MP.PP/2017/2, para. 63).

¹² Further information regarding the joint work and informal networks of ECE multilateral environmental agreements is available from <http://www.uneece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/joint-work-and-informal-networks.html>.

agencies and other international organizations within the Aarhus Convention capacity-building coordination framework.¹³

27. Detailed information on the capacity-building activities, including current trends and considerations is available in the report on capacity-building (ECE/MP.PP/2017/7) and its accompanying (informal) document (AC/MOP-6/Inf.2), which were submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its sixth session.

28. In addition, the secretariat is liaising continuously with partner organizations, potential donors and interested countries and stakeholders and is handling a number of consultations through electronic means on possible capacity-building activities that could be implemented in the 2018–2021 intersessional period.

29. The Aarhus Clearinghouse has been increasingly used for disseminating information about funding opportunities, workshops and training events relevant to building capacities in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

C. Reporting mechanism

30. Following the failure of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, the Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom to submit their national implementation reports for the 2017 reporting cycle by the deadline set by the Meeting of the Parties, the Meeting of the Parties called upon these Parties to do so by 1 November 2017. None of the Parties concerned submitted their national implementation report for the 2017 reporting cycle by that later date.¹⁴

III. Promotional activities

A. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

31. The secretariat, or relevant experts invited by the secretariat to do so, participated in conferences, seminars, workshops and other events in various countries to promote and raise awareness about the Convention and its Protocol at the international level.

32. The secretariat provided input regarding the Convention and its Protocol to the sixth Global Environment Outlook *GEO-6 Assessment for the Pan European Region*,¹⁵ prepared by UNEP and ECE with the support of the European Environment Agency and in close collaboration with partner institutions and individual experts. In addition, the secretariat promoted synergy within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Information and Knowledge Management Initiative coordinated by UNEP and took part in relevant meetings.

33. The secretariat promoted the Convention and its Protocol at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Geneva, Switzerland 24–29 September 2017) highlighting the potential for synergies in implementing the instruments.

¹³ Meeting documents and other information on this work area are available from <http://www.unecce.org/env/pp/oa.html>

¹⁴ For more information, see the synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2017/6) submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.

¹⁵ Nairobi, United Nations Environment Programme, 2016.

34. The secretariat is contributing to a training programme on public participation and strategic environmental assessments for Chinese investors and policymakers from Central Asia in the context of the "International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road". The training is to be jointly organized by UNEP and the International Labour Organization International Training Centre.

35. The interactive French and Russian language versions of the second edition of the *Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide*¹⁶ were made available in 2017 and printed copies in French and Russian were distributed to national focal points and relevant stakeholders in the region and beyond.

36. The promotional brochure, *Protecting Your Environment: The Power Is In Your Hands*, addressing the general public interested in the Convention and its provisions, was published in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian and widely distributed.¹⁷ The Chinese version of the promotional brochure is currently being finalized. After the finalization of the Chinese version, this brochure will be available in all six official languages of the United Nations.

37. The secretariat also promoted the Convention and the Protocol through various reports and articles prepared under the auspices of ECE and partner organizations. In addition, the secretariat continued an enhanced outreach exercise, distributing materials about the Convention and the Protocol to national focal points, Aarhus Centres, other United Nations bodies, international organizations, NGOs and academic institutions in the ECE region and beyond.

38. Following a formal expression of interest by Guinea Bissau, the secretariat continued to provide advisory support to the country in its efforts to accede to the Convention.

B. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes

39. In connection with implementing the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums (Almaty Guidelines), it is planned that at its twenty-second meeting, the Working Group of the Parties will hold a thematic session focusing primarily on promoting the application of the Convention's principles in international decision-making on chemicals and waste under the three UNEP chemical conventions,¹⁸ the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management policy framework. Participants at this thematic session are also expected to review progress in promoting the principles of the Convention in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development processes and with regard to access to information and stakeholder engagement in the framework of the United Nations Environment Assembly and International Financial Institutions-related processes. The Working Group will also address cross-cutting issues related to international decision-making.

¹⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.II.E.3. Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/implementation_guide.html

¹⁷ ECE/MP.PP/9. Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/publications/the_power_is_in_your_hands.html

¹⁸ The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

40. During the reporting period the secretariat continued supporting efforts to promote the principles of the Convention in and promote interlinkages with various international forums, working with other United Nations bodies (in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNEP, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research), other environmental treaty bodies (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol) and other international organizations (inter alia, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OSCE and the World Bank).
41. The secretariat also promoted the Aarhus Convention principles in a side event hosted by France at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Bonn, 6–17 November 2017).
42. Cooperation between the secretariat and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council was further enhanced in the reporting period. The secretariat provided input on the value added of the Convention and its Protocol to a study by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Promotion, protection and implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the existing human rights law: best practices, experiences, challenges and ways to overcome them” (A/HRC/30/26). In response to the invitation of the High Commissioner, input was also provided to the civil society space report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-eighth session, as requested in Council resolution 32/31 (para. 18). The secretariat further provided input during expert consultations on children’s rights (Geneva, 22–23 June 2017) and on human rights and the environment (Geneva, 17 October 2017) held to support the preparation of two reports of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/HRC/37/58 and A/HRC/37/59).
43. The secretariat provided input to a webinar organized by UNEP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on environmental human rights defenders on 16 October 2017 and continued liaising with the representatives of these organizations on the matter.
44. The secretariat also promoted the Aarhus Convention during the 2017 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights (Geneva, 27–29 November 2017), organized on the theme of “Realizing Access to Effective Remedy”.
45. During the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, the secretariat promoted the Aarhus Convention on several occasions: (a) on 2 March 2018 at a side event regarding children’s rights and the environment arranged by the Special Rapporteur on human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; (b) on 5 March 2018 at the plenary discussion on the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development; (c) also on 5 March 2018, at a side event organized by the NGOs Earthjustice and the Center for International Environmental Law on the protection of environmental human rights defenders; and (d) at the launch event of the United Nation Environmental Rights Initiative on 6 March 2018.
46. The secretariat provided input to a webinar organized by the World Bank on its Environmental and Social Framework Draft Guidance Note for Borrowers (28 November 2017). Also in November 2017, the secretariat provided written comments on the review of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development “Extractive Mining Industries Strategy”, the “Moldova Country Strategy for 2017–2022” and the “Slovak Republic Country Strategy 2017–2022”.

47. The secretariat further promoted the Aarhus Convention at the First Meeting of the Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists organized by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) (Geneva, 29–30 January 2018).

48. The secretariat participated in an event on “Strengthening the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements: can non-governmental organizations make a difference through compliance mechanisms?” (Geneva, 7 March 2018) organized jointly by the Implementation Committee under the Convention for the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Compliance Committee under its Protocol on Water and Health.

49. Also in the reporting period, the secretariat provided ongoing advisory support, including by engaging relevant experts, upon request to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the negotiations of a regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

50. In addition, the Aarhus Convention secretariat provided ongoing advice to various academic bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders upon request.

51. The Aarhus Clearinghouse has been increasingly used for disseminating information about public consultations under various international processes and forums.

C. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities

52. During the reporting period the status of the Convention and its GMO amendment with regard to accession, ratification or approval has remained unchanged: as of 16 March 2018, the Convention has 47 Parties and the GMO amendment has 31 Parties. The ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers by Montenegro on 11 October 2017 raised the number of Parties to that treaty to 36.

53. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities during the reporting period was mainly conducted by the Working Group of the Parties and its Bureau during regular meetings of those bodies.

54. In cooperation with the host country, Montenegro, the secretariat prepared and organized the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and a Joint High-level Segment with the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in Budva, Montenegro. Eighteen side events were organized on the margins of the sessions.¹⁹ The Bureau held its fortieth meeting in Budva on 10 September and its forty-first meeting in Geneva on 22 February 2018. The Bureau also held regular electronic consultations on different subjects.

55. Representatives of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the governing bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements continued to liaise at informal meetings to exchange information on priorities under the agreements and to identify and discuss possible areas of cooperation and synergy in the light of recent and future key developments in the area of the environment. At the last meeting (Geneva, 13 November 2017), held back to back with the twenty-third session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 14–17 November 2017), the Vice-Chair of the Aarhus Convention and the

¹⁹ See <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhusmop6&prtmopp3/main.html>.

Chair of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers participated, along with members of the secretariat.²⁰

56. At the twenty-third session, Aarhus representatives presented examples of how the Convention and the Protocol could support Parties in attaining Sustainable Development Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the goals).²¹

²⁰ The Chair's Summary of the ninth informal meeting between representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Committee of Environmental Policy is available from <http://www.uneece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/joint-work-and-informal-networks.html>.

²¹ For more information, including texts of the presentations, see the web page for the twenty-third session. Available from <https://www.uneece.org/index.php?id=45618>.

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Economic Commission for Europe**Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters****Working Group of the Parties****Twenty-second meeting**

Geneva, 19–21 June 2018

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of work programmes for 2015–2017
and 2018–2021, including financial matters****Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the
implementation of the Convention's work programmes for
2015–2017 and 2018–2021****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present report was prepared pursuant to the decision of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017) (see ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI.6, para. 9). It provides an overview of the contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programme of the Convention for 2015–2017 for the period 1 January to 31 December 2017. It also provides information on the status of contributions and expenditures up to 16 March 2018 in relation to the implementation of the 2018–2021 work programme.

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I. General considerations

1. The present report provides an overview of contributions and expenditures for the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1, decision V/6, annex I) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017. It also provides information on the status of contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the 2018–2021 work programme for the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1, decision VI/5, annex I) up to 16 March 2018.¹ During the reporting period (i.e., 1 January 2017–16 March 2018), the secretariat continued to observe a high degree of caution in its allocation of resources, mainly owing to the fact that many contributions were not yet available at the beginning of the financial year, thus creating uncertainty as to the availability of sufficient funds. The secretariat made various efforts to encourage in-kind contributions and thereby reduce the impact on the trust fund. The secretariat will continue pursuing synergies with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies and other partners in order to maintain a satisfactory number of activities and share implementation costs.

2. For the sustainability of the work under the Convention, it is crucial to ensure staff funding on a long-term basis. The extension of contracts for staff funded from the Aarhus Convention trust fund depends on the availability and the level of contributions received. Since the current financial scheme is based on voluntary contributions and provides no guidance on their amount, the level of contributions fluctuates, making the funding of extrabudgetary posts unpredictable and far from secure. As for the previous years, the secretariat was therefore obliged to give priority to securing funds for staff costs, which need to be reserved for at least one year before issuing a staff contract. The secretariat was able to allocate sufficient funds for staff and for activities in the reporting period only owing to savings accumulated at the end of each preceding year.

3. To ensure the continuity of work and effective delivery on commitments, the secretariat regularly had to reconsider the distribution of tasks among its staff members to guarantee the timely delivery of work when there were competing priorities.²

4. As of 1 February 2016, the temporary arrangement according to which the funding of one administrative staff member through the 13 per cent programme support costs levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division has been discontinued. This staff member is required in order to provide the necessary administrative support to activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, including administrative arrangements for the meetings of the governing and subsidiary bodies of the two treaties. In order to ensure implementation of the work programme without any interruption, the secretariat recruited an administrative staff member to be funded through extrabudgetary resources.

¹ For a substantive overview of the implementation of the work programme during the reporting period, please consult document ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2018/4.

² Following the departure of a P-2 staff member in August 2014, the post was temporarily occupied by a short-term staff member until the formal recruitment procedure for a fixed-term P-2 staff member was completed in May 2015. A P-3 staff member, funded through extrabudgetary resources, left the secretariat in August 2016 and a P-2 staff member, whose position is funded through regular budgetary resources, was on temporary leave until 28 February 2017. As a result, temporary personnel were recruited at the P-2 and P-1 levels to take over the relevant tasks, including the preparations for and servicing of the latest sessions of the Convention's and Protocol's Meetings of the Parties in September 2017. The recruitment procedure for a P-3 fixed-term staff member funded through extrabudgetary resources is currently pending.

II. Contributions

5. The "adjusted contribution" columns in tables 1 and 2 below are intended to offer a more realistic picture of the actual resources available for use in a given year. Contributions by Parties and signatories are often intended for use in a year other than the year the contribution was deposited and/or received. The adjusted contribution figure in a given year is derived from the actual contribution in that year, minus any part of that contribution that was intended for use in a different year, plus any contributions made in years other than the reference year but intended for use in the reference year. Owing to the lack of timely funding for any specific year, the secretariat is obliged to use the available funds, as necessary. Amounts presented in all the tables are rounded to whole numbers.

A. Financial contributions and pledges

Table 1

Contributions received in 2017 and for 2017 for the Convention and the Protocol as of 16 March 2018

(in United States dollars)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2017</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2017</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	—	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	—	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2016
Austria	—	10 929	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	5 022	5 022	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	11 065	—	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	5 532	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Azerbaijan	293	293	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Belarus	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Belgium (Federal)	21 762	21 762	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Belgium (Brussels-Capital Region)	1 009	1 009	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Belgium (Flemish Region)	8 499	8 499	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Belgium (Walloon Region)	4 091	4 091	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Bosnia and Herzegovina	—	500	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
Bulgaria	1 936	1 936	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Croatia	3 000	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	3 000	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Cyprus	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2017
	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2017
	500	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2014, received in 2017
	500	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2017
	500	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2017

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2017</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2017</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Czechia	—	15 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	—	10 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2016
	5 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	10 000	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Denmark	—	20 325	For Aarhus Convention, received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$60,975); annualized for 2017
	—	10 163	For Protocol on PRTRs received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$30,489); annualized for 2017
	10 675	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Estonia	—	2 370	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2018
European Union	106 724	106 724	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	12 597	12 597	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Finland	10 000	10 000	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017
France	—	71 744	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	70 575	—	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	32 017	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2017
	35 294	35 294	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Georgia	1 000	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Germany	60 000	60 000	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	27 996	27 996	Additional contribution for the Protocol on PRTRs 2017 to support participation of experts from countries with economies in transition and non-governmental organizations
Greece	1 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2017
	1 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2017
	1 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2017
Hungary	4 977	4 977	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	481	481	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Iceland	1 480	1 480	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Ireland	—	5 464	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	5 924	—	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	—	3 279	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2016
	3 555	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2017</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2017</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Italy	106 157	106 157	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	—	29 757	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2015–2017 to promote the Convention among non-ECE countries, received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$89,272), annualized for 2017
	7 109	7 109	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2017–2018, received in 2017
Kazakhstan	1 000	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Kyrgyzstan	858	858	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Latvia	2 000	2 000	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	1 185	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Lithuania	1 067	1 067	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	2 323	—	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
	2 323	—	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2019, received in 2017
	2 323	—	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2020, received in 2017
Luxembourg	1 086	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2017
	1 086	1 086	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	543	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2017
	543	543	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Malta	1 000	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Montenegro	—	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	500	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Netherlands	—	47 771	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	21 345	21 345	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Norway	20 000	20 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	20 000	20 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	57 400	—	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2018 to support participation of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and non-governmental Organizations and associated staff costs to support organization of meetings and travel arrangements of these experts, received in 2017
Poland	—	5 308	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	—	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2016
Portugal	503	503	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Republic of Moldova	1 000	1 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Romania	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2017
	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2017
	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2017

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2017</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2017</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Slovakia	—	807	For Aarhus Convention 2017, received in 2016
	—	531	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2016
Slovenia	4 132	4 132	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	—	531	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2016
	4 132	—	For Aarhus Convention 2012, received in 2017
	4 132	—	For Aarhus Convention 2013, received in 2017
Spain	5 896	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2017
	5 896	5 896	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Sweden	35 000	35 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	18 000	18 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Switzerland	40 161	40 161	For Aarhus Convention 2017, of which 20,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
	72 993	72 993	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017, of which 50,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
Tajikistan	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2017
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	46 512	—	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2017
	46 512	46 512	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Total	1 009 220	964 499	
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	286 276	251 273	

Abbreviation: Protocol on PRTRs = Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

Note: No financial contributions, in-kind contributions and/or pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Convention for 2017: Armenia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan. No financial contributions, in-kind contributions and/or pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Protocol for 2017: Belgium, Israel, Malta, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

Table 2

Contributions received in 2018 and for 2018 for the Convention and the Protocol as of 16 March 2018

(in United States dollars)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2018</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2018</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	3 000	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	3 000	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
Austria	—	11 065	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	—	5 532	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Croatia	3 000	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	3 000	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2018</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2018</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Czechia	—	5 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	—	10 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Denmark	21 400	21 400	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	—	10 675	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Estonia	2 370	—	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017, received in 2018
France	—	70 575	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
Germany	60 000	60 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
Ireland	—	5 924	For Aarhus Convention 2018, received in 2017
	—	3 555	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Italy	124 224	124 224	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	—	7 109	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2017–2018, received in 2017
	6 211	6 211	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2017–2018, received in 2018
Latvia	—	1 185	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Lithuania	—	2 323	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Montenegro	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	—	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, received in 2017
Norway	39 970	39 970	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2018
	—	57 400	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2018 to support participation of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and non-governmental organizations, and associated staff costs to support organization of meetings and travel arrangements of these experts, received in 2017
Poland	5 974	5 974	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	3 000	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
Slovakia	908	908	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	597	597	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
Sweden	34 970	34 970	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	17 970	17 970	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	45 512	45 512	For Aarhus Convention 2018
Total	375 606	556 970	
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	27 567	59 014	

Abbreviation: Protocol on PRTRs = Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

Table 3
Pledges for 2015–2021 as of 16 March 2018

(in original currency)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Austria	€	10 000	For Aarhus Convention 2019
	€	10 000	For Aarhus Convention 2020
	\$	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	\$	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2020
	\$	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2021
European Union	€	100 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	\$	12 170	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
	\$	12 170	For Protocol on PRTRs 2019
	\$	12 170	For Protocol on PRTRs 2020
	\$	12 170	For Protocol on PRTRs 2021
France	€	30 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
Hungary	\$	5 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	\$	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018
Israel	\$	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Kazakhstan	\$	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
Latvia	\$	2 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	€	1 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Republic of Moldova	\$	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
Serbia	\$	1 600	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	\$	1 600	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	\$	1 600	For Aarhus Convention 2018
	\$	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	\$	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Switzerland	\$	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
	SWF	40 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018, of which 20,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
	SWF	70 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2018, of which 50,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
Ukraine	\$	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2017
	\$	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2018

Abbreviation: Protocol on PRTRs = Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

B. In-kind contributions

6. The following in-kind contributions were made in the reporting period³:

(a) Support from the Government of Montenegro for the organization and hosting of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Joint High-level Segment and the associated preparatory meetings (Budva, Montenegro, 10–15 September 2017);

(b) Support from the Office of the United Nations Development Programme in Montenegro for the organization of the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties and the associated preparatory meetings;

(c) Support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the organization of the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, the associated preparatory meetings and several side events and for the travel of non-governmental and governmental delegates, representatives of the judiciary and a number of participants from Aarhus Centres to the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, side events and meetings of subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Protocol;

(d) Support from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe for the organization of several side events and the travel of representatives of the judiciary and other legal professionals to the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, side events and meetings of subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Protocol;

(e) Support from the Governments of France, Italy and Sweden, the secretariat for the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity and non-governmental organizations for the organization of side events on the margins of the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.

III. Estimated and projected expenditures

7. The costs shown in tables 4 and 5 below are estimated and projected. The costs are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's and Protocol's schemes of financial arrangements through the trust fund. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. Figures are rounded up. Figures may change in accordance with United Nations administrative regulations. Expenditures reported are those related to the implementation of the 2015–2017 and 2018–2021 work programmes of the Aarhus Convention. Protocol-related expenses are reported to the bodies of the Protocol.

³ In-kind contributions to support activities for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers only are included in the report to the Protocol's Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/9).

Table 4
January-December 2017 estimated expenditures as of 16 March 2018
 (in United States dollars)

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
I. Access to information ^a	Staff time	17 000 ^b
	Subcontracts/consultancies	— ^c
	Travel, DSA (staff)	3 500
Subtotal		20 500
II. Public participation	Staff time	15 000 ^d
Subtotal		15 000
III. Access to justice	Staff time	34 000 ^e
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	23 439
Subtotal		57 439
IV. Genetically modified organisms	Staff time	7 500 ^f
Subtotal		7 500
V. Compliance mechanism	Staff time	174 902 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	16 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	61 253
	Travel, DSA (staff)	3 500
Subtotal		255 655
VI. Capacity-building ^h	Staff time	16 000 ⁱ
Subtotal		16 000
VII. Reporting mechanism	Staff time	— ^j
Subtotal		—
VIII. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention	Staff time	25 931 ^k
	Subcontracts/consultancies	5 112 ^l
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	1 604
Subtotal		32 647
IX. Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Staff time	36 863 ^m
	Travel, DSA (experts)	— ⁿ
Subtotal		36 863

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
X Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including preparations for the sixth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff time ^a	219 931 ^b
	Subcontracts/consultancies	22 980
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	89 981
	Travel, DSA (staff)	15 000 ^c
Subtotal		347 892
XI Sixth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties		— ^d
Subtotal		—
XII Horizontal support areas	Training of staff	4 000
	Staff time (secretarial support) ^e	75 600
Subtotal		79 600
Total (work areas I-XII)		869 097
Programme support costs (13%)		112 983
Grand total		982 080

Abbreviations: Almaty Guidelines = Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums, DSA = daily subsistence allowance

Notes: Staff costs in notes a to s below are estimated by multiplying expected Professional (P) and General Service (G) staff time in each work area by the projected annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated. A breakdown by individual staff members follows in parentheses.

^a Including responsibility for electronic information tools under the Convention and the Protocol

^b Total of 10 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January–December 2017 (5 per cent of P-3 staff, and 5 per cent of P-3 staff)

^c Costs required for upgrade of the PRTR net web portal are to be paid from the contribution to the Protocol's work programme

^d Total of 10 per cent of P-2 staff costs for January–October 2017 (10 per cent of P-2 staff)

^e Total of 20 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January–December 2017 (20 per cent of P-3 staff)

^f Total of 5 per cent of P-2 staff costs for January–October 2017 (5 per cent of P-2 staff)

^g Total of 80 per cent of P-3 staff costs and 80 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January–December 2017 (80 per cent of P-3 staff, and 80 per cent of P-1 staff)

^h This work area encompasses activities that build capacity in areas that relate to the Convention as a whole. Capacity-building activities relating to a specific topic under the Convention (e.g., electronic information tools or access to justice) are covered under those activity areas.

ⁱ Total of 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January–December 2017 and 5 per cent of P-2 staff costs for January–October 2017 (5 per cent of P-3 staff, and 5 per cent of P-2 staff)

^j Staff costs are reported under work area X.

^k Total of 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs and 5 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January–December 2017 and 10 per cent of P-2 staff costs for January–October 2017 (5 per cent of P-3 staff, 10 per cent of P-2 staff, and 5 per cent of P-1 staff)

^l In line with past practice, it is anticipated that some publications will be funded from the United Nations regular budget

^m Total of 10 per cent of P-3 staff costs and 10 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January–December 2017 and 10 per cent of P-2 staff costs for January–October 2017 (10 per cent of P-3 staff, 10 per cent of P-2 staff, and 10 per cent of P-1 staff)

ⁿ The travel costs of experts and participants to attend the thematic session of the Working Group of the Parties for the promotion of the Almaty Guidelines are reported under work area X (coordination and oversight of intersessional activities)

^o Including provision of legal advice and general tasks.

^e Total of 75 per cent of P-3 staff costs and 5 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January-December 2017 and 60 per cent of P-2 staff costs for January-October 2017 (70 per cent of P-3 staff, 5 per cent of P-3 staff, 60 per cent of P-2 staff, and 5 per cent of P-1 staff)

^f Costs for participant travel to both Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol and costs for participants that attended the Joint High-level Segment only are divided equally between the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol

^g Costs are reported under work area X

^h 70 per cent of G-4 staff costs for January-December 2017 (70 per cent of G-4 staff, as the staff member devotes 30 per cent of her work time to the Protocol)

Table 5
January-December 2018 (projected) expenditures

(in United States dollars)

Work area	Cost type	Expenditure
I Access to information ^e	Staff time	53 100 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	10 000
	Travel, daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (experts/participants)	— ^c
	Travel, DSA (staff)	7 000
	Subtotal	70 100
II Public participation	Staff time	28 080 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	5 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	7 000
	Subtotal	80 880
III Access to justice	Staff time	61 950 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	4 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	40 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	7 000
	Subtotal	113 750
IV Genetically modified organisms	Staff time	7 020 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancy	4 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	—
	Travel, DSA (staff)	3 500
	Subtotal	14 520
V Compliance mechanism	Staff time	218 820 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	25 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	91 800
	Travel, DSA (staff)	7 000
	Subtotal	342 620
VI Capacity-building ^h	Staff time	26 550 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	2 000
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	3 000

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Cost type</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	Travel, DSA (staff)	7 000
Subtotal		38 550
VII Reporting mechanism	Staff time	— ^d
Subtotal		—
VIII Awareness-raising and promotion of the Convention	Staff time	24 720 ^e
	Subcontracts/consultancies	5 000 ^f
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	7 000
	Travel, DSA (staff)	10 000
Subtotal		46 720
IX Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines and other interlinkages with relevant international bodies and processes	Staff time	40 590 ^g
	Subcontracts/consultancies	5 000
	Travel, DSA (experts)	3 400 ^h
	Travel, DSA (staff)	3 500
Subtotal		52 490
X Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, including preparations for the seventh ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties	Staff time ⁱ	33 570 ^j
	Travel, DSA (experts/participants)	60 000
	Travel, DSA (staff)	3 500
Subtotal		97 070
XI Seventh ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties		— ^k
Subtotal		—
XII Horizontal support areas	Staff time (secretarial support) ^l	80 500
	Training of staff	4 000
Subtotal		84 500
Total (work areas I–XII)		941 200
Programme support costs (13%)		122 356
Grand total		1 063 556

Abbreviations: Almaty Guidelines = Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums; DSA = daily subsistence allowance

Notes: Staff costs in notes a to r below are estimated by multiplying expected Professional (P) and General Service (G) staff time in each work area by the projected annual salary costs of staff hired at the level indicated. A breakdown by individual staff members follows in parentheses

^a Including responsibility for electronic information tools under the Convention and Protocol

^b Total of 30 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January–December 2018 (30 per cent of P-3 staff)

^c The travel costs of experts and participants to attend the thematic session of the Working Group of the Parties on Access to information are reported under work area X (coordination and oversight of intersessional activities)

- ^d Total of 20 per cent of P-3 staff costs for September-December 2018 and 20 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January-September 2018 (20 per cent of P-3 staff, and 20 per cent P-1 staff).
- ^e Total of 35 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2018 (35 per cent of P-3 staff).
- ^f Total of 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs for September-December 2018 and 5 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January-September 2018 (5 per cent of P-3 staff, and 5 per cent P-1 staff).
- ^g Total of 80 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2018, 55 per cent of P-3 staff costs for September-December 2018 and 55 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January-September 2018 (80 per cent of P-3 staff, 55 per cent of P-3 staff, and 55 per cent of P-1 staff).
- ^h This work area encompasses activities that build capacity in areas that relate to the Convention as a whole. Capacity-building activities relating to a specific topic under the Convention (e.g., electronic information tools or access to justice) are covered under those activity areas.
- ⁱ Total of 15 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2018 (15 per cent of P-3 staff).
- ^j Staff costs are reported under work area X.
- ^k Total of 10 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2018, 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs for September-December 2018 and 10 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January-September 2018 (5 per cent of P-3 staff, 5 per cent of P-3 staff, 5 per cent of P-3 staff, and 5 per cent of P-1 staff).
- ^l In line with past practice, it is anticipated that some publications will be funded from the United Nations regular budget.
- ^m Total of 15 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2018, 10 per cent P-3 staff costs for September-December 2018 and 10 per cent P-1 staff costs for January-September 2018 (10 per cent of P-3 staff, 10 per cent of P-3 staff, 5 per cent of P-3 staff, and 10 per cent of P-1 staff).
- ⁿ The travel costs of experts and participants to attend the thematic session of the Working Group of the Parties for the promotion of the Almaty Guidelines are reported under work area X (coordination and oversight of intersessional activities).
- ^o Including provision of legal advice and general tasks.
- ^p Total of 15 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2018, 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs for September-December 2018 and 5 per cent of P-1 staff costs for January-September 2018 (10 per cent of P-3 staff, 5 per cent of P-3 staff, 5 per cent of P-3 staff, and 5 per cent of P-1 staff).
- ^q Not applicable for this year.
- ^r 70 per cent of G-4/G-5 staff costs for January-December 2018 (70 per cent of G-4/G-5 staff, as the staff member devotes 30 per cent of her work time to the Protocol).